



A32516 07/23/01 187

#7
QMSY
7-24-01
RECEIVED

JUL 23 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Michalopoulos et al.

Serial No.: 09/455,952

Examiner: Naff, D.

Filed: December 7, 1999

Group Art Unit: 1651

For: A NOVEL LONG-TERM THREE DIMENSIONAL TISSUE CULTURE
SYSTEMRESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal
Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231

July 16, 2001

Date of Deposit

Carmella Stephens

Attorney Name

Carmella L. Stephens
Signature42,328

PTO Registration No.

July 16, 2001
Date of Signature

Assistant Commissioner of Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated February 15, 2001, please
consider the following remarks. The Examiner has stated that the claims of the present
application contain three inventions, which he has divided into the following groups:

Group I, claims 1-7, 12 and 14, drawing to a method generating a hepatic
cell culture and to a population of matrix/hepatic cell clusters, classified in
class 435, subclass 373;

Group II, claims 8-11, 13, 15 and 16, drawn to a method of generating a
three-dimensional hepatic cell culture and composition comprising

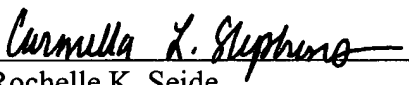
matrix/hepatic cell clusters on a three-dimensional support, and three-dimensional tissue culture matrix, classified in class 435, subclass 395; and

Group III, claims 17-19, drawn to a method of providing hepatic function in a subject having a liver disorder, classified in class 424, subclass 93.7.

In response, Applicants elect to pursue the claims of Group I in this application without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in other patent applications. Applicants make their election with traverse, on the grounds that the claimed processes of Group I and Group II are conceptually linked, and would not require separate searches. Accordingly, Applicants request that the restriction requirement be reconsidered.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 02-4377. Two copies of this sheet are enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,


Rochelle K. Seide
PTO Reg. No. 32,300

Carmella Stephens
PTO Reg. No. 42,328
Agent for Applicants

BAKER BOTTS, L.L.P.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, NY 10112
(212) 408-2500